



**Lakes Commission Meeting  
December 21, 2021  
7:00 p.m.  
Via Zoom**



<b>Ken Funk</b>	Lake Waterford	Jim Stout	Park District Liaison
<b>Tom Heinrich</b>	Lake Springledge	<b>Brad Winter</b>	Lake Potomac
P.J. Hilbert	Village at Large	<b>Caly Winter</b>	Village at Large
<b>Dave Kraft</b>	Chair & Village at Large	<b>Pat Dickson</b>	Village Trustee
<b>Kevin Lowry</b>	Village at Large	Clay Johnson	Village Administrator
<b>Fritz Meyer</b>	Village at Large	<b>Kevin Klahs</b>	Director of Operations
<b>Carlos Menor Salazar</b>	Lake Linden	Dominic Marturano	Mayor
			<b>bold = present</b>

- I. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm
- II. Roll Call - Members of the Lakes Commission were present as indicated in **bold** above.
- III. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ken and seconded by Brad to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 16, 2021. The motion carried. There was discussion that the minutes of the September 21, 2021, were not yet approved because there was no quorum present at the point in the meeting when the agenda item was introduced at the meeting of November 16. Therefore, the minutes of the meeting of September 21, 2021, will be offered for approval at the January meeting of 2022.

**IV. Commissioner Reports**

- A. Chairperson Report – Dave began by reminding members of the Commission that this was a special meeting called to discuss budgetary issues and projects that will have budgetary implications. After this brief introduction, he invited individual commissioners to give individual lake reports if they wished to do so.
- B. Individual Lakes Commissioner Reports – Brad reported that the water level was up on Lake Potomac, even though it was not yet up to its normal level. Ken reported that there was not much to report on Lake Waterford except that there was some fishing activity going on and there were swans and other waterfowl observed on the lake recently.
- C. Trustee Report – No report.
- D. Village Report – Kevin K. reported that the mayor requested the Lakes Commission to consider the goals that had been discussed last year and approve or modify those proposed goals as the LLC saw fit. Kevin K. reminded members of the Lakes Commission that goals

recommended by the Lakes Commission will be subject to approval by the Village Board at an upcoming meeting, likely January. If, and when they are approved by the Village Board, those established goals will be consulted when evaluating requests for future funding projects.

V. Old Business: None

VI. New Business: Discussion of Capital vs. Lakes Budget Projects –

- A. Kevin K. explained the distinction between capital projects and operational fund requests. He explained that operational fund dollars are those intended for day-to-day functioning. Capital fund projects, however, are funded differently and are usually larger in scope and intended to add some future benefit. It is imperative that the relevant goals be established and approved before proposed capital projects can receive approval by the Village Board. Kevin emphasized that it is necessary for members of the Lakes Commission to come together, and all agree on proposed capital projects for them to go forward.
- B. Discussion of Lakes Commission Goals for Recommendation to the Village Board for Adoption - At this point in the meeting, Dave reminded members of the Commission that he distributed the proposed goals for our review following the last LLC meeting and asked if there was support for the goals as drafted, or if changes were recommended before being sent to the Village Board for consideration. After some discussion, Kevin L. made a motion that the proposed goals for the LLC, that were discussed at the meeting, be approved by the LLC, and recommended to the Village Board for approval. Fritz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dave suggested that members of the LLC consider attending the January 10, 2022, Village Board meeting as the Mayor and Village Trustees consider approval of the LLC's goals.

C. Budget Discussion

- a. Lake Potomac aeration and stocking – Dave reminded members of the LLC that it was not possible to install aerators and restock Lake Potomac last year because there was no nearby power source available to run the aerators. Since the aerators could not be installed to oxygenate the lake, it would be irresponsible to restock in Fall as there would be a distinct possibility that the newly introduced fish would not survive the winter. Dave said that it would likely be possible to arrange for the power requirements by the end of next summer. Kevin K. remarked that money would have to be approved in the budget for this to take place, but the LLC could consider this budgetary request at its next meeting in January. Kevin surmised that approximately \$5,000 to \$10,000 would be required to accomplish the project.

Brad suggested that aeration and sediment removal be considered to improve Lake Potomac. A discussion of the cost of sediment removal ensued as sediment removal was considered for Lake Potomac several years ago. Kevin K. said that he would get an idea of cost, while Ken added that he recalled the cost for sediment removal was \$20,000 per foot acre when a removal organization provided a proposal years ago. Ken went on to recall that when sediment removal for Potomac was discussed in the past, Potomac residents did not want the removal of only one foot acre of

sediment. Kevin K. added that when sediment removal was discussed previously, the Potomac shoreline residents did not want to form a SSA for that purpose.

Brad added that he was asking for a solution to the Lake Potomac problem that is more than just a band aid. But he clarified that he was just asking for exploration of a possible solution to see if it we might be headed in the right direction. Caly added that the condition of Lake Potomac has been an unresolved issue for a long time. Kevin L. agreed that it might be cost effective to find a section of the lake and remove the sediment to check for effectiveness. Kevin L. also agreed that aeration might help with the oxygenation of the lake. Ken suggested that sprayers, not fused aerators should be investigated.

Dave reiterated that it is unlikely to get approval for costly projects unless assigned lake commissioners develop specific and detailed proposals that have involved feedback and participation of residents. He suggested that there needs to be 20 or more people spearheading and developing a capital project for it to be successful. Kevin K. said that the Village Board may prefer to address the requests for aeration and sediment removal separately. Dave added that he believed there is some risk with the strategy of coupling the aeration and sediment removal requests as we may lose both. Brad responded that he believed both aeration and sediment removal will be beneficial, and there is a better chance of sustaining the life of the lake with these two strategies going hand in hand. It was agreed that Brad will come to the next LLC meeting with a specific recommendation crafted and worded as a motion to be voted upon. Kevin K. said that it would be satisfactory for the LLC to approve budget recommendations at its February meeting. He added that recommending aeration to the Village Board would be easier than recommending a capital project like sediment removal.

- b. Sign repairs and upgrades. Brad mentioned that lake related signs and signs with fishing information need repair or replacement because some of them are rusty and have a poor appearance. Kevin K. replied that improved signage should be considered and vowed to look at the signs. Kevin added that it is good to memorialize the issue of signage and discuss it in the future.
- c. Full-system predator fish stocking/management. Dave reported that we will be unable to get a fish survey done by Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) in the very near future to guide us in our short-term fish stocking decisions. Ken said that he sent an informational piece to members of the LLC about the LLC's philosophy of top down biomanipulation. Ken went on to say that, historically, large mouth bass and tiger muskie were used to control the panfish population in our lakes. Unfortunately, someone introduced crappies in 1999 when the lake was restarted. The large mouth bass and muskie populations have dropped and consequently the crappie population has exploded. Since crappies are meat eaters they compete with the bass for fry. In conclusion, Ken said that while he agrees with the fish stocking recommendations for Potomac, he believes that it would be short sighted not to at least add some muskies to Waterford in the next restocking cycle.

Kevin K. then asked if it would be prudent to restock in April because there is some money available in the existing budget for stocking. Ken replied that some fish could possibly be added in the next week or so. Dave said that he will email PJ for his comments on the possibility of restocking before the next budget cycle. In response

to Brad's question about restocking formulae, Ken responded that, traditionally and in accordance with IDNR recommendations, the LLC has been adding one muskie per acre every second of third year depending on availability. As a matter of fairness, this restocking formula has been followed for all of the Village lakes. Fritz added that adding muskie to Potomac should probably not be done right now.

- d. Lake Waterford boat launch improvements – Dave reported that his firm has been working with the Village to explore boat launching options off either Teal Landing or Highpoint, with Highpoint looking like the far more likely option. Dave went on to say that these kinds of projects are detailed and involve safety standard considerations and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Kevin K. added that the Village budgeted for the engineering study last year and has received most of it at this point. He said that a discussion of the boat launch concept would be useful to see what members of the LLC thought of the initiative. The launch would be helpful to residents who have long sought easier access to launching and retrieving boats but would also make it more attractive for non-residents to frequent the Village lakes. Fritz replied that he is in favor of the addition of the launch ramp because he is a boater. Ken offered that the proposed Highpoint location is shallow, while the Teal location is deeper. Dave replied that the slope considerations are significantly more favorable with the Highpoint site, and sediment removal is a part of the proposal to add depth. Tom said that he was in favor of the launch ramp, but access controls should be investigated and included with the development of the project to reduce the likelihood that non-residents will access the Village lakes. Dave replied that there are controls on the Loon Lake launching site and these and other types of controls can be used. Fritz added that Lake Villa uses a key system as well.

In response to Kevin L.'s question, it was explained that no one would be allowed to launch at the Teal Landing site if a Highpoint launch was added. In response, to Trustee Dickson's question, Kevin K. responded that this initiative would likely not be included in the LLC's budget but would be a community capital project. However, because the concern for launching and lake access was addressed with the LLC by residents, it would be preferable, though not necessary, that the LLC have the opportunity to comment. Finally, Kevin K. added that access is one of the LLC's goals, and the addition of a ramp is consistent with the goals.

At this point in the meeting, Dave asked members of the LLC for budget recommendations to propose to the Village Board. Kevin K. added that recommendations did not necessarily have to be made at this meeting. It would be possible to delay motions for budget recommendations to the next meeting if that was preferable. With that being said, Dave said that he would like to contact PJ about fish stocking recommendations for Fall. In addition, Dave asked Brad if he could come into to the next meeting with a word-crafted specific motion for his budget recommendations for Potomac. In response to questions from Kevin L., Brad replied that he was contemplating putting the recommendations for aeration and sediment removal together because both were needed. Kevin K. offered that, perhaps it would be beneficial to separate the recommendations of aeration and sediment removal so that one could pass without the other. Dave concurred with Kevin K.'s suggestion to separate the 2 recommendations. Brad replied that putting the 2 recommendations together give Potomac a much better chance to be viable. He went on to say that he understood the concern and would work on the wording of the recommendation and bring it back to the LLC and its next meeting.

**VII.** Public Participation: None

**VIII.** Adjournment:  
There was a motion made by Tom to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Fritz.  
The meeting ended at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Heinrich  
Recording Secretary

LLC Public Participants

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
None	

**Reminder: A special meeting will be scheduled for January 18, 2022**

